

Eureka No. 40, Tipple and Cleaning Plant
Berwind-White Coal Mining Co.
E of PA 56, N of Little Paint Creek
Scalp Level
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-184-E

HAER
PA,
11-SCA,
1-E-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

EUREKA NO. 40, TIPPLE AND CLEANING PLANT

HAER
PA
11-SCA
1-E

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Location: East of PA 56, North of Little Paint Creek, Scalp Level, Cambria, Pennsylvania

USGS Quad: Richland, Pennsylvania (1:24000)
UTM: 17 E.683520 N.4457880

Date of Construction: 1928

Builder: Roberts & Schaefer Company of Chicago, architects
Berwind-White Coal Mining Company

Present Owner: Berwind Corporation

Present Use: Abandoned

Significance: The Tipple and Cleaning Plant was a primary element of the extensive cleaning facilities which operated at Eureka No. 40, making it one of Berwind-White's most important collieries.

Project Information: In February 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HAER undertook a comprehensive inventory of Blair and Cambria counties as the first step in identifying the region's surviving historic engineering works and industrial resources.

The results of this project have been published in Blair County and Cambria County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (1990), edited by Gray Fitzsimons and produced by HABS/HAER for the National Park Service.

Compiler: Nancy Shedd and Ken Heineman, Historians
Gray Fitzsimons and Kenneth Rose, Editors

History:

In 1928 the Roberts & Schaefer Company of Chicago, designed and built this three-story reinforced-concrete tipple and cleaning plant at a cost of about one-half million dollars. It was here that coal was dumped from the mine cars, conveyed to the initial sorting area, sorted by size, then cleaned, and finally loaded into rail cars for shipping. (Also, it was through this process that the refuse was separated and conveyed to the nearby slate pile.)

The tipple included the car dump (manufactured by the Heyl & Patterson Company of Pittsburgh), scales, a run-of-mine conveyor, and a main screening house. The initial sorting was carried out on the third floor where the incoming coal was deposited on screening tables that sorted the coal by size. The sorted coal was then conveyed to concentrator tables on the second floor where through a combination of mechanical shaking and the blowing of compressed air, the lighter coal was separated from the heavier refuse. As with all dry-cleaning plants, dust posed a tremendous hazard. The Eureka No. 40 plant, although largely modelled upon the existing facility at Eureka No. 37, contained a more efficient system of dust collectors manufactured by the Pangborn Company of Hagerstown, Maryland.

Over the next decade, coal companies increasingly used wet-cleaning for coal instead of dry cleaning. Following suit with other bituminous coal producers, in 1941 Berwind-White installed a separate wet-cleaning plant at Eureka No. 40. To remove excess water from its product, in 1955 the company also constructed a drying plant just north of the tipple, and later installed a mechanical drier. With such extensive cleaning facilities, Eureka No. 40 became one of the company's most important collieries. In 1948 Berwind-White began to haul coal from many of its other Eureka mines to the tipple and cleaning plant at No. 40 for processing. When the company ceased operations in 1962, the surface works of most of its mines were dismantled. At Eureka No. 40, however, the cleaning plant was such a valuable asset that Berwind-White was able to lease the mine to another coal operator in the 1970s. The mine and cleaning facilities operated until about 1980 when they were closed for the last time.